



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Ernest B. Abbott: General Counsel

Ernest B. Abbott was appointed as FEMA's General Counsel by President Clinton in July 1997. As FEMA's General Counsel, Mr. Abbott is both the principal legal advisor to FEMA's Director and head of the Office of General Counsel. He and his staff of approximately 30 attorneys provide legal services to all of FEMA's program and support offices and represent the agency in litigation.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Abbott, an expert in environmental, energy and transportation law, worked as an independent consultant on energy and environmental regulation. Previous posts include serving as Director and Vice-President, and Principal Deputy General Counsel and Managing Attorney, for Tenneco Energy, in Houston, TX. From 1983 to 1985, Mr. Abbott served as Special Assistant for Legislative Development in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Earlier positions included serving as attorney-advisor for the Interstate Commerce Commission, and as an attorney in Hogan & Hartson, a Washington, D.C. legal firm.

A native of Massachusetts, Mr. Abbott holds a B.A. from Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA. He received his J.D. from Harvard University Law School, and an M.A. from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He has served on the advisory committee to the American Arbitration Association, advocating the increased use of arbitration and mediation in the energy industry.

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